

The

Call Letter

March 2021

Vol 47, #3



Dan Howard's Voices of Vanport Released

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

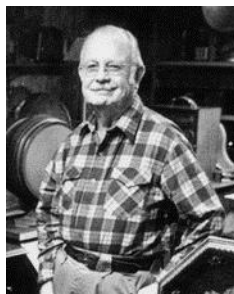
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.



Society Officers

President	Pat Kagi 360 909-7009	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Franklin Ouchida	crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
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Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson 503 630 2720	vanguard4@lycos.com

On the Cover

Picture of radio operator from Dan Howard's recently released book
"The Voices of Vanport - The Radio History of the Vanport Flood"

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Announcements

March 2021 meeting - Sat. Feb.13, 9:00 am - details in email

March 2021 Monthly Feature - Radios with a M in their name

March Tech Talk - None this month

March Tube of the Month - National Union tubes

Leads and Needs - The Swap Shop is for members' classified ads.

Ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.

Editor's Note - Please have April Call Letter contributions in by
Sunday, March 28. Articles & Ads welcome. (Tube labels too).

(No Calendar of Events this month due to cancellations)

Visit our web site at:

www.nwvrs.com

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message for March 2021

I am hoping that we can do a mini radio sale in March, so please watch your emails for this event as this will be on a weekend after our March meeting. This trial event will see if a regular full size event can be done in April.

There was a concern brought up about our aging members and an idea was proposed to address this issue. I'd like to run with this suggestion that was sent in and we can discuss this after the March meeting has concluded.

While you are waiting, the old WRNO has been revived to an on-line tech talk meeting at 7:00 pm PST Wednesday evenings so watch your emails!

Radio is still the largest consumed medium which reaches the largest audience worldwide. It is the voice of our society for the last 110 years and I hope that it continues to shape and be a part of our future.

Jan 13 2021 - How to add an input jack to a 1930s radio - Mike McCrow
<https://youtu.be/mJbnc2nXvE8>

Jan 20 2021 - Radio triage - Robbie Robinson
<https://youtu.be/BJEMUfgW9Jc>

Jan 27 2021 - Dim Bulb tester - Bruce Baur
<https://youtu.be/BCfxTdahInI>

Thanks and take care, Pat

VP's Message for February 2021

Monthly Features – Radios start with a “N”

Zoom meeting Saturday March 13, 2021 at 9:30

Please let me know if you are interested in doing a Tech Talk over Zoom.

Anyone without email access that would like a phone call with urgent NWVRS information. Please contact me by phone to be put on a call list. Join us every Wednesday at 7:00 pm for WRNZ on Zoom for a radio chat session!

It's just some thoughts.
Franklin Terry Ouchida

NWVRS Meeting Minutes - February 13, 2021

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

President Pat Kagi called the February 13, 2021 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:30 AM using the Zoom meeting application. Members discussed having a park bench at the Grange Hall to honor former NWVRS members. The group also discussed the idea of getting Call Letter information sent in earlier. The new deadline will be the Tuesday of the week before the meeting. Liles Garcia showed the group a working Atwater-Kent Model 19 radio. The Program Topic for today's meeting is "Radios with Names beginning with a 'M'." Mike McCrow showed the group a GE Musa Phonic T150B. Rick Walton showed the group a Majestic 15A. Robbie Robinson showed a Mickey Mouse radio still in its original packaging. Dan Howard showed an Arvin Model 40 "Might Mite" radio. Mike McCrow told the group about the Mullard Tube Company. Phillips took over the Mullard name and still makes tubes. The Monthly Topic for March will be "Radios and Tube Companies with an 'N' in their name. The meeting was adjourned.

Tube of the Month: National Union Radio Corp.

by Mike McCrow

The Mullard Radio Valve Company Ltd. was founded in 1920 by Capt. Stanley R Mullard. He was a research engineer for the British Admiralty. Soon the company was known as a premier manufacturer of electronic components. The Mullard Company was known worldwide for their high quality electronic parts. They produced handmade tubes or "valves" as they were called in England.

Before starting the company Mullard worked on high vacuum development for the Admiralty. He supervised the production of transmitting and receiving valves during World War I.

The Mullard Company increased to six factories in 1924 due to an increased demand for valves for domestic receivers. He financed the expansion by selling half of the shares of Mullard Radio Valve Co. to Phillips Gloeilampenfabrieken of Holland. By 1927 Phillips acquired the remainder of the company and used the Mullard brand name until 1988. Today the Mullard brand is owned by New Sensor, an American company that manufactures many hi-fi tubes. Many Mullard tubes are made in Russia and some are still made in Great Britain.

Vintage Mullard tubes made in the early days of hi-fi when Phillips still owned the company are sought after and demand a high price. Nos tubes like the KT88, 12AX7, EL84, 6L6 and many more.

“Greetings from KOIN” Postcard from 1934 by Hubert Miller

Something that impressed me when I relocated to Oregon was the high degree of interest shown by NWVRS members in their local radio history.

I found a 'Greetings from KOIN' card 4.5 x 6.5 inches, mailed 1934. I think as I focus my vintage radio interests, rather than I keep this, maybe it would have more meaning and value to some NWVRS member. The reverse side has a written note to a listener thanking her for mailing in home-sewn 'hanky'. (I am so glad 'handkerchiefs' are replaced by disposables.) with an invitation to come and tour the station.



The Voices of Vanport - The Radio History of the Vanport Flood Now Available by Don Howard

<http://www.nwvrs.org/Events/News/NWVRS-Archives/nwvrs-archives.html>

My new book, Voices of Vanport - Radio and the Flood of '48, is now available as a free pdf download from the NVRS website. I hope that you enjoy it. And, feel free to share this link with others that may be interested.

Thanks Dad, Dick, Mark, Bob, Pat, Ted, Ron, Craig and the other Society members who shared their memories and helped with the project. On Memorial Day 1948, Oregon's second largest city was buried under 15 feet of flood water. 18,000 people lost their homes in a matter of minutes. Several Oregon and Washington broadcasters were flooded out as were numerous ham radio operators.

Yet, even as the flood was rushing in, hams were on the scene risking their lives to help others reach safety. And, often through extraordinary means, broadcasters managed to get the word out about the disaster and provide critical aid to the community.

Read about the heroic efforts of first responders and meet many of the Oregon and Washington hams whose lives were touched by this disaster. Discover the full extent of this region-wide event that impacted communities from British Columbia to the Oregon Coast.

Followup to Last Month's Wilbur Jerman Story by Ron Kramer

I enjoyed seeing the Jerman TV tube on the cover of last month's Call Letter. I don't know whether it adds any particularly useful information to the W7XAO story but I thought I would share a portion of my interview with Mr. Jerman (which occurred just shy of his 102nd birthday).

Ron Kramer: Okay. Tell me how you decided to apply for the television license W7XAO.

Wilbur J Jerman: Well, I really don't know why, how that happened to, but in the old days, when the inspector come down from Seattle, he kinda, was kinda anxious to have me do things, so I think he told me to do that, so I did. Yeah. I think that we had this television license...we had one television license that we was experimenting in Mount Tabor in my attic, I remember.

Ron Kramer: So that would be before...You moved KWJJ downtown in 1927...

Wilbur J Jerman: Yeah, that's right.

Ron Kramer: So you were experimenting with TV before that?

Wilbur J Jerman: Yeah. Yeah.

Ron Kramer: Huh. Now, I have a newspaper article from 1928 when you got the license for the experimental television station, W7XAO.

Wilbur J Jerman: Yeah.

Ron Kramer: What happened with that? Did you put it on the air, and run it for a time? Or...

Wilbur J Jerman: I don't remember but...I don't remember how long we ran it. I know we were...always different things we were doing with it, radio inspector was right with us on it. He wanted us to promote radio, and do things, you know, and we did. Yeah. First, it's that big electric light pole sitting in the driveway when I was in Mount Tabor. We never did do anything with it. There was supposed to be an antennae on it, you know.

I have included links to two relevant pages on my website.

They are: https://www.westmb.org/People/P_Jerman.html

and http://www.westmb.org/L_Stations_-_Oregon_-_TV/L_Stations_W7XAO.html

The second link contains the Federal Radio Commission files for W7XAO.

A brief history of Pilot Radio Corp

by Nat Pendleton & Larry Tobkin

The Pilot Radio Corp. was founded by Isidor Goldberg. He was born in Manhattan, New York, in 1893 and graduated from Hebrew Technical Institute in Mechanical Arts in 1908. From 1910-1914, Isidor Goldberg was a test pilot for Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corporation and Curtiss Airways. Afterwards he sold aeronautical supplies and model airplanes. In 1915 Goldberg was granted a U.S. patent for his invention of an emergency lamp.

In 1919, Isidor Goldberg founded Pilot Electric Manufacturing Co. in Brooklyn, New York, to manufacture parts and kits for home radios. In 1930 a second plant was established in Lawrence, Massachusetts. However, the Lawrence Massachusetts plant didn't last long because the company went bankrupt. So, the company was reformed, and the name of the company was later changed from Pilot Radio and Tube Corp., in 1932, to Pilot Radio Corp. By 1936 Pilot products were being sold in

more than 90 countries. In the late 1940s and early 1950s plants were built in Britain (prior to World War II), South Africa (by 1953), and Israel (in 1947). All three plants were sold in 1959. Goldberg was president of the company from its inception until his death in 1961. As president of Pilot Radio Corp., Isidor Goldberg was a leader in developing and introducing new products and new uses for communications equipment. The company was the first to introduce a civilian short wave radio (WASP, 1925) and a battery-powered, portable radio (1937). In 1930, he also developed long distance ground-to-air communications with his "flying laboratory".

In 1937, Pilot introduced the first "popular-priced" FM tuner (Pilotuner). In the same year, the company produced ready-made TVs. Ten years later Pilot marketed the first miniature (portable) TV receiver (Candid TV).

During World War II, Pilot Radio Corp. produced communications equipment for the war effort and in 1945 won the prestigious Army Navy "E" Award for excellence in production of war equipment.

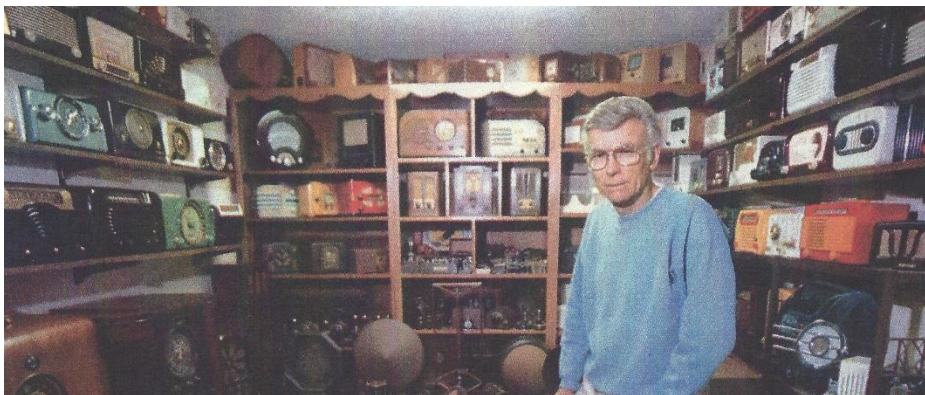
Pilot Radio Corp first introduced its high fidelity (Hi-Fi) product line in 1952. In the early years, the company worked closely with RCA. The production of products was handled by Pilot itself and the design work was handled by RCA. Most of the early hi-fi products of Pilot were licensed by RCA. However, Pilot slowly took over the product development in the late 50's.

No question that Pilot Radio Corp was one of the most successful hi-fi brands during the golden years of hi-fi and the company was focusing on the affordable and reliable hi-fi products. Pilot produced various hi-fi products, including power amplifiers, pre-amplifiers, integrated amplifiers, receivers, AM and FM tuners, speakers and audio consoles. Consumer Report magazine in 1954 rated Pilot AA-903 as one of the best buy amplifiers of the year and most of the Pilot's products were also highly rated by audiophiles during the 1950s and 60s. Many audiophiles believe that Pilot Radio Corp affected the development of Marantz, because the engineers from Marantz, such as Sid Smith and Dick Sequerra, also worked for Pilot Radio Corp before they worked for Saul Marantz.

Pilot's hi-fi products were slowly turned out of the market during the 70's because of heavy competition from low price Japanese hi-fi products. However, the Pilotone Radio and hi-fi gear are still highly rated by vintage audiophiles today.

The NVRS History Project

By Dan Howard (nvrstdan@gmail.com)



As announced during the January meeting, I volunteered to work with Mark Moore to enhance the NVRS website to include a new “History” section. Our vision is to begin gathering photos and stories about how we got here. In case you hadn’t noticed, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since the Society began meeting in January, 1975.

The History project has several goals including:

- Increase the visibility / availability of the materials in the NVRS Archives (which are currently stored at my house).
- Safeguard some of the rarer materials by making copies available on the web, like we have already done through the Call Letter scanning project.
- Tell the stories of members who have passed by creating “Tribute Pages.”

Regarding the Tribute Pages, the short-term plan is to:

1. Utilize stories from the NVRS archives and the Call Letters to create “pages” for Society members who have passed. This will take some a while but we’ll keep adding people as time allows and as materials are available.
2. Make it possible within each past member’s Tribute Page to gather and post additional stories and tributes as they become available from whatever sources. For example, we have a nice tribute to Jim Mason. However, the archives also contain newspaper articles about Jim. And, many members remember

Jim and may want to eventually contribute their own memories about him, the wonderful Jim Mason auction, his work as a botanist, his great old cars, etc.. While we figure out the logistics of this piece, please feel free to send me stories, clippings, photos, etc. (Please be sure to ID the items, tell me what they're about and what they mean to you, and, if they're originals, let me know if you want them back). I'll at least file the materials in the NVRs archives until we can post them to the web.

Longer term we hope to expand the Tribute Pages to include other folks who are significant to local radio history (Joe Hallock, Charlie Austin, etc. and/or who were friends or associates of the NVRs (Morgan McMahon, Pat Stewart, etc.). Again, if you have great material to add in this regard, please send it my way for the archives.

This project is very much focused on preserving the history of our Society. So, we are not planning to do exhaustive work on personalities such as Marconi or De Forest who are already well-represented on the web. And our scope does not include creating tributes for living members - though there is no harm with honoring a living member with a story in the Call Letter.

If you have stories or photos to share from any era in NVRs history, (e.g. digital pics from a swap meet, show, or picnic, clippings etc.) we'll be happy to see them and consider them for future stories or tributes.

Again, please be sure to include identifying info with the materials and let me know if you need them back. When in doubt, email me and we can discuss your submission in advance.

For the time-being, I wanted to share a gem that we found in the archives this week. Jerry Talbott was an early member and past NVRs president who passed away in 2006. The photo on the next page shows Jerry down in the basement of his and Ruth's Aloha home. Take a minute and look at some of the many gorgeous radios that came his way. I appreciate the many contributions he made to our club including arranging for our displays at the Forest Grove Concours d' Elegance and the Northwest Car Collector's Show. I'm sure that other members have stories they can share as well.

I'm so looking forward to seeing the NVRs History Project come together and working with the membership to share stories and photos like Jerry's.

Crawfordsville Sale Report by Dan Howard

Our thanks go out to the McCracken family and their team for having us down for the Crawfordsville Sale Part 2. This by-invitation-only radio sale was open to Society members and a few guests which kept the crowds manageable and the excitement high.

Part 1 took place on lucky February 13th, a day that will be remembered by Portlanders for its ice, snow, and downed trees and powerlines. Crawfordsville was just far enough south to avoid the winter weather. And those folks living south of Salem who didn't have winter roads to contend with were given first-crack at a truly amazing group of radios. NVRS member Jim McCracken assembled a huge collection of AC table radios, mostly from the 1930s – 1950's. But there were some very nice consoles too and a smattering of later sets including transistor novelties. According to the reports and pictures, those who were able to make it had a great time.

So, how about Part 2? Well, the pictures that were sent out before the sale didn't lie. The dozen-or-so of us who walked in at 10:00 found it akin to entering Aladdin's treasure cave. All around the walls of the huge building, radios were stacked 12+ feet high. In the middle, shelves and tables beckoned with bargains galore. I wandered around in awe at least twice before it sank in that all of this could be mine (building to store it all *NOT* included). But wait – word was spreading – there are more consoles and novelties in the house. Quick, show me the way! The one-of-a-kind Grebe console. The lighted case filled floor-to ceiling with Catalins. Beautifully finished Zeniths. Sensory overload! With this many great radios still to choose from, could this really be Part 2? Through some informal polling, I reckon that no one left empty handed. As Lisa and I headed out at 1:00 with a handful of treasures, a number of folks were still shopping, boxing their loads, and strategizing about how to get it all home.

The message during the sale echoed what we'd already heard – there is a lot more to come. Watch for details from the estate about upcoming sales.



President Pat and Dan Olson enjoying some high-rise shopping.



Grebe AC Synchrophase custom console interior

Radiolaguy's Monthly Showcase

By Sonny Clutter

C. E. "Sonny" Clutter; AKA: the RadiolaGuy

Web Site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com> Email: radiolaguy@outlook.com

No new item this month but Sonny's site is always worth a peek!!

Swap Shop

Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.

Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair:

Jan and Glenn Anderson	425 750 7600	Longview
Bruce Baur	503 708-4537	Milwaukee
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

WANTED: Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

FOR SALE: B.F. Goodrich Model R459 AM + SW (big console) \$20
Also a Philco Model 20 Table Top for \$70 and a Silvertone Model 6074 1930
Tabletop \$50. Have a good day. Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565

FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-180 general coverage short
wave receiver, 18 tube triple conversion. Plays well on all
bands and in excellent condition. Asking \$165.00 or best
offer. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897 <radioray39@gmail.com>
*** 1,500 45 RPM records for sale. A lot of late 1950's and
early 1960's Doo Wop records. \$300.00 for all. Electronically
restored General Motors model 140 console radio. Very
beautiful cabinet. \$300.00 - Steve K. (541) 388-9978 *** ➔



There are 3 pieces of equipment that I am hoping to find in the local area:

General Radio Standard Signal Generator, Type 805

Hallicrafters SX-12 Commercial Sky rider

Hallicrafters, S-37 (or S-27/C, S-27/CA)

Jeff Quay jeff_quay@hotmail.com ***

Karl is looking for transistor radio potentiometers. I believe the generic part number I'm looking for is F-12SG. 250k ohm or higher. 1meg ohm would be ideal. A couple of decent working used ones from 9v battery transistor radios would work. Your Friend, - Karl :)_ Karl Schultz The Cabinet Broker 503-620-5636 (office) 503-957-9254 (cell) 503-598-9366 (fax) 11725 SW Queen Elizabeth Ave Suite B King City, Or 97224

I collect and restore record players / phonographs with tubes, any and all table tops, portables, even Consoles! If you have one with tubes that is in your way, and that you would like to get rid of or sell cheaply, please get in touch with me. I also will repair or restore yours if you need help in that way. Email me a picture, or give me a call.

Thanks! John Livingston 503-708-2987

Military radios:

2 ea. R392 receivers

2 ea. R662 transceivers

1 ea. AM3349 400 watt RF amplifier

These are complete but untested and came from the estate of a very active local ham. Lots of cables and manuals too. \$1200 for everything Tektronix 575 curve tracer. Includes the high voltage testing mod and Tek cart and original manual. Does not power on - no further troubleshooting has been done. - \$350

Bill Holeman <bpasok@live.com>

You maybe know about Playthings of the Past whose owner/proprietor, Gary schneider died recently <http://www.olderadioparts.com/>. Gary had a text list of his inventory. the new owner posted some pictures.

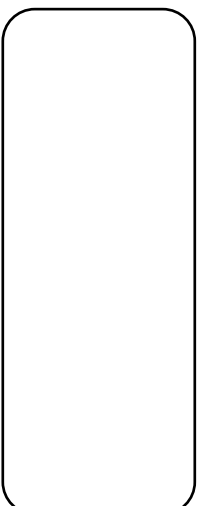
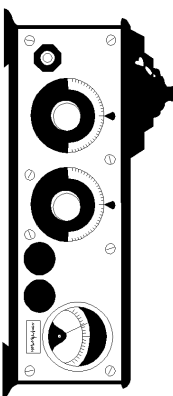
[Vintage Electronic Test Equipment \(bbtvtestequipment.com\)](http://www.bbtvtestequipment.com)

Scroll down. And down. As someone on the philco phorum said, Holy Chrome, Paul ! And I thought I had this addiction bad !

[Inside Playthings of the Past \(philcoradio.com\)](http://www.philcoradio.com) - Bob Dieffenbach



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